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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/574,996	04/06/2006	Jean Razafiarivelo	003D.0096.UI(US)	2288
29683 7590 04/25/2007 HARRINGTON & SMITH, PC 4 RESEARCH DRIVE SHELTON, CT 06484-6212			EXAMINER IMAS, VLADIMIR	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2839	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		04/25/2007	PAPER	

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/574,996

Applicant(s)

RAZAFIARIVELO ET AL.

Examiner

Vladimir Imas

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) 18 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 6, 9, 10 and 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-5, 7, 8 and 11-17 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 04/06/2006.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Objections***

1. Claims 1 and 5 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 1, line 9, recited "...makes is possible...", should be changed to --...makes it possible...--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim 5, line 2, recited "...Go-nGo system...", should be changed to --... go-nogo system ...--. Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Drawings***

2. A set of drawings was not received with the US application. Examiner has used drawings from PCT/FR2004/0504496. Applicant is required to provide a new set of drawings.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 2, 6, 9, 10 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakamura (US 6,524,125).

Regarding claim 1, Nakamura, fig. 1-11, discloses an electrical connector

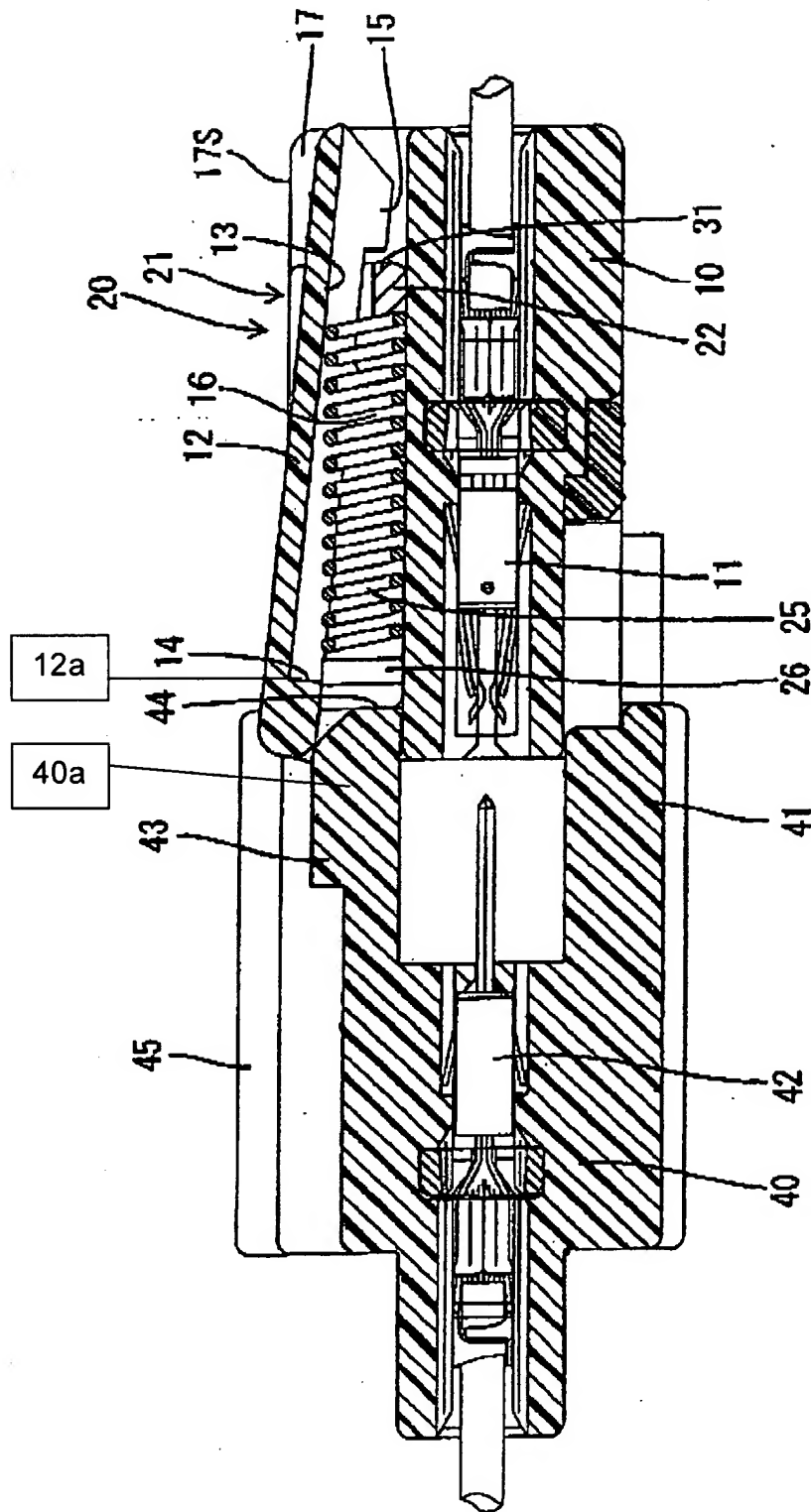


Fig 2

comprising: a cover 40 equipped with at least one first electrical contact 42; a case 10 equipped with at least one second electrical contact 11; and a disconnection device 12 that cooperates with the cover and with the case in order to establish an electrical connection between the first contact and the second contact, which defines a connected state, fig. 1a; and in order to bring about a disconnection between the first and the second contact, which defines a disconnected state, fig. 1c, characterized in that the electrical connector also comprises a first means of locking 40a that makes it possible to maintain the disconnection device in the connected state; a release 14 that acts on the first means of locking in order to permit the movement of the disconnection device from a connected state to a disconnected state of the first and second contact; and an elastic member 25 placed between the case and the cover, the member being capable of being moved between a first deformed position in the connected state and a second relaxed position in the disconnected state, the elastic member bringing about a separation of the case with respect to the cover, while disconnecting the first contacts from the second contacts when the elastic member changes its position from the deformed position toward the relaxed position when the movement of the disconnection device is triggered by the release.

Regarding claim 2, Nakamura discloses that the elastic member forms a spring.

Regarding claim 6, Nakamura discloses that the disconnection device is placed between the case and the cover, the elastic member is linked to the case and to the disconnection device.

Regarding claim 9, Nakamura discloses that the disconnection device is recessed by a groove 12a comprising a shape that is adapted to the shape of an end 43 of the first means of locking.

Regarding claim 10, Nakamura discloses that the elastic member extends by a length corresponding to at least the length of the first contact.

Regarding claim 19, Nakamura discloses a process for electrical disconnection of an electrical connector comprising: a cover 40 equipped with at least one first electrical contact 42; a case 20 equipped with at least one second electrical contact 11; and a disconnection device 12 that cooperates with the cover and with the case in order to establish an electrical connection between the first contact and the second contact, which defines a connected state, and in order to bring about a disconnection between the first and the second contact, which defines a disconnected state, characterized in that it includes the following step; a release 14 is moved in order to dislodge from a groove 12a recessed in the disconnection device a first means of locking 40a by at least at height corresponding to the depth of the groove.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

5. Claims 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 11-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The Prior Art does not disclose that the first means of locking is an elastic

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tongue formed at a point on the bottom of the case as defined by claim 3; The Prior Art does not disclose that the release slides along the peripheral wall of the case and comprises an end intended to be supported against an end of the first means of locking, the first means of locking also cooperating with the disconnection device as defined by claim 4; The Prior Art does not disclose that the connector is equipped with a go-nogo system as defined by claim 5; The Prior Art does not disclose that the disconnection device comprises a first groove, the device cooperates with the case, while sliding along the first means of locking, going from the state of disconnection in the direction of the state of connection, in such a manner that the end of the first means of locking is positioned in the first groove as defined by claims 7 and 8; The Prior Art does not disclose that the first means of locking is moved by a height necessary for being dislodged from the second groove as defined by claim 8; The Prior Art does not disclose that it comprises a secondary means of locking of the first means of locking that is capable of being moved between a blocking position of the first means of locking and a freeing position of the first means of locking, it being necessary to maneuver this secondary means of locking from the blocking position toward the freeing position so that the first means of blocking can be actuated by the release as defined by claims 11-17.

6. Claim 18 is allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the Prior Art does not disclose a process for the electrical connection of an electrical connection comprising the following step: the disconnection device is inserted into the case from a

front face in the direction of a back face of the case until the device slides along a first means of locking from a **first groove** to a second groove, the first groove being recessed in the disconnection device.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vladimir Imas whose telephone number is 571-272-8288. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, T. Patel can be reached on 571-272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a


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USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

✓  
Examiner  
Vladimir Imas  
4/13/2007

  
TULSIDAS C. PATEL  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER